

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMAKO 00311 111841Z

44

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 PC-10 USIA-15 IO-14 DODE-00

AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 SWF-02 DRC-01 RSC-01 /166 W

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P 111630Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8473

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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AFDROUGHT

EC BRUSSELS FOR MARTIN; MONROVIA FOR BROWN; PARIS FOR

HELMAN; ROME FOR FODAG

E O 11652 NA

SUBJ: FOOD NEEDS OF ISOLATED ZONES AND STORAGE FOOD IN THE SAHEL

REF: STATE 024527; STATE 024994, BAMAKO 0257

PLEASE NOTE: THIS TELEGRAM ANSWERS BOTH STATE 024527 AND
024994.

IN ANSWER TO STATE 024527:

1. BELIEVE BAMAKO'S 0257 ACCURATELY DESCRIBES GRAIN
SITUATION SIXTH REGION. GOAL NOW IS TO SHIP 10,000 MT

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PAGE 02 BAMAKO 00311 111841Z

OF GRAIN BEFORE ONSET RAINY SEASON TO MEET MINIMUM CONSUMPTION

NEEDS SIXTH REGION OF 70,000 MT. WAREHOUSING SIXTH REGION ADEQUATE THESE PURPOSES. IDEA OF PREPOSITIONING 50,000 MT OF GRAIN SIXTH REGION PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE GIVEN TRANSPORT CONSTRAINTS. FURTHERMORE, BELIEVE 50,000 MT FIGURE DOES NOT REPRESENT QTE NEEDS OF ISOLATED AREAS UNQTE BUT RATHER WOULD MEET FOOD NEEDS FOR MUCH OF SIXTH REGION. OUR REFERENCED CABLE INDICATES THAT 57,000 MT HAS ALREADY REACHED SIXTH REGION (29,000 BEING VI REGION CROP AND 28,000 MT SHIPPED ON NIGER).

IN ANSWER TO STATE 024994:

1. GENERAL: CHARGE SPOKE WITH MALI DROUGHT COORDINATOR, MINDEFENSE DOUKARA, FEB 8TH. DOUKARA IS COMPILING REPORT COVERING ENTIRE LOGISTIC/SUPPLY SITUATION WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO SIXTH REGION AND WILL MAKE FINDING AVAILABLE EMBASSY WHEN COMPLETED.

2. STORAGE: DOUKARA SAID WAREHOUSING HAS NOT BEEN DIFFICULTY SINCE TRANSPORT CONSTRAINTS HAVE PREVENTED LARGE-SCALE PREPOSITIONING. EMBOFF WHO VISITED SIXTH REGION END OF JANUARY ESTIMATES STORAGE CAPACITY FOR ABOUT 15-20,000 MT BASED ON COMMENTS REGIONAL OFFICIALS THAT CURRENT GRAIN STOCKS WILL RUN OUT BY END OF MAY. EMBASSY AWARE THAT OPAM ADDING 1,000 MT TO GRAIN STORAGE WAREHOUSE IN GOUNDAM FOR TOTAL 3,000 MT THERE AND R&R PROJECT CALLS FOR 8,000 MT STORAGE MOPTI AND 2,000 MT DIRE (R&R STORAGE FIGURES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL MINDEFENSE DOUKARA).

3. RAILROAD: DOUKARA MENTIONED THAT TWO LOCOMOTIVES COLLIDED IN SENEGAL WHICH MAY AFFECT RAILROAD CAPACITY AND HE REFERRED TO REQUEST MADE TO ADO MCADAMS FOR TWO GMC LOCOTOVIES SIMILAR TO ONES ALREADY PURCHASED ON COMMERCIAL BASIS. DOUKARA COMMENTED THAT AFFECT ON RAILROAD HAULING CAPACITY DIFFICULT ESTIMATE UNTIL MORE GRAIN ARRIVES DAKAR FOR MALI AND LARGE SHIPMENTS RESUME (EXPECTED SHORTLY).

4. GASOLINE PRICES: GASOLINE PRICES HAVE RISEN 40 O/O SINCE DEC 1, 1973 AND LAST INCREASE WAS FROM 120 MALI FRANCS TO 140 MALI FRANCS PER LITER. GASOLINE SUPPLIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BAMAKO 00311 111841Z

MALI ARE ADEQUATE PRESENT TIME.

5. AIRLIFT: DOUKARA SAID USSR SENDING ONE ANTONOV 12 FOR TWO MONTHS OPERATIONS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 20TH WITH HAULING CAPACITY 12 TONS AND FRG SENDING TWO TRANSALLS FOR ABOUT 3 WEEKS COMMENCING FEB 15TH WITH HAULING CAPACITY ABOUT 10 MT EACH. GERMANS WILL HAUL POWDERED MILK AND SORGHUM GRITS.

6. TRUCKS: DOUKARA MAKING ARRANGEMENTS HAVE 36 TRUCKS NOW IN ABIDJAN DRIVEN TO BAMAKO FOR ARRIVAL NEXT FEW DAYS. UNDERSTAND SEVERAL TRUCKS ARE DAMAGED. DOUKARA WILL ADD OTHER TRUCKS TO U.S. LOT FOR TOTAL TRUCK HAULING CARAVAN ABOUT 50 TRUCKS.

7. CONCLUSION: TRANSPORT SITUATION MALI SUBSTANTIALLY SAME AS 1973 NEW ELEMENTS ARE: (A) WILLIAMS-DOUKARA AGREEMENT USE 36 TRUCKS WITH SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING TO RESUPPLY SIXTH REGION BY ROAD RATHER THAN AIRLIFT, (B) DRAMATIC OIL PRICE INCREASES, (C) CONTINUED DONOR INPUTS: (1) FED PLANS IMPROVE AIRPORTS NIORO, GOUNDAM, TIMBUKTU (SEE STATE 025595), (2) UNICEF PLANS FOR MOBILE HEALTH TEAM UNITS SIXTH REGION ASSOCIATED WITH R&R \$200,000 RESERVED THIS PROJECT, (3) TRUCKS PROVIDED BY CANADA (TEN), USSR, FRANCE (SIX) AND OTHERS, (4) BRITISH DROUGHT RELIEF FUND 250,000 POUNDS WHICH MAY BE PARTLY ALLOCATED TO IMPROVE KAYE-NIORODU SAHEL ROAD FIRST REGION, AND (5) R&R RIVER TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS.

8. MAJOR BOTTLENECK IN MALI ARE POOR ROADS CONNECTING DROUGHT AREAS IN FIRST AND SIXTH REGIONS WHICH NOT ONLY SLOW DOWN GRAIN RESUPPLY BUT ACCELERATE DAMAGE TO TRUCKS USING THESE ROADS. BELIEVE HOST COUNTRY MANAGEMENT IS EXCELLENT AND DOUKARA AND ARMY EVEN BETTER ORGANIZED THIS YEAR. BY MID-MARCH EMBASSY SHOULD BE ABLE TO PREDICT EFFECTIVENESS GOM EFFORT TO RESUPPLY SIXTH REGION BY TRUCK.
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